

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



13 MARCH 1963

~~TOP SECRET~~

50X1

1. Iraq

a. A move is afoot to send back some of the Soviet arms which flooded in under Qasim.

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b. A group of army and air force officers has decided to recommend to the defense minister that the SAM project be cancelled and that both the SAM's and the Soviet technicians be sent back. They argue not only that the deal costs too much but that the project serves essentially Soviet rather than Iraqi needs.

c. Meanwhile, we see [redacted] that [redacted] arrangements for Egyptian military collaboration and assistance are continuing.

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50X1

d. But Baghdad may be looking elsewhere for economic aid. [redacted]

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2. UAR - Saudi
Arabia - Yemen

a. Radio Cairo is now moving to blanket out Saudi Arabia's Radio Mecca. On Sunday, Cairo changed the frequency on one of its transmitters so that it almost obliterated Radio Mecca's medium-wave broadcast signal.

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b. U Thant said yesterday he was ready to send Bunche to Saudi Arabia today provided Faysal confirms his welcome without pre-conditions; Ambassador Hart was told yesterday such an assurance was being sent, but it had not been received in New York last night.

c. U Thant is also floating the idea of a summit conference--Faysal, Nasir and Sallal--over which he would preside. He is testing it out first on Nasir.

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3. Indonesia

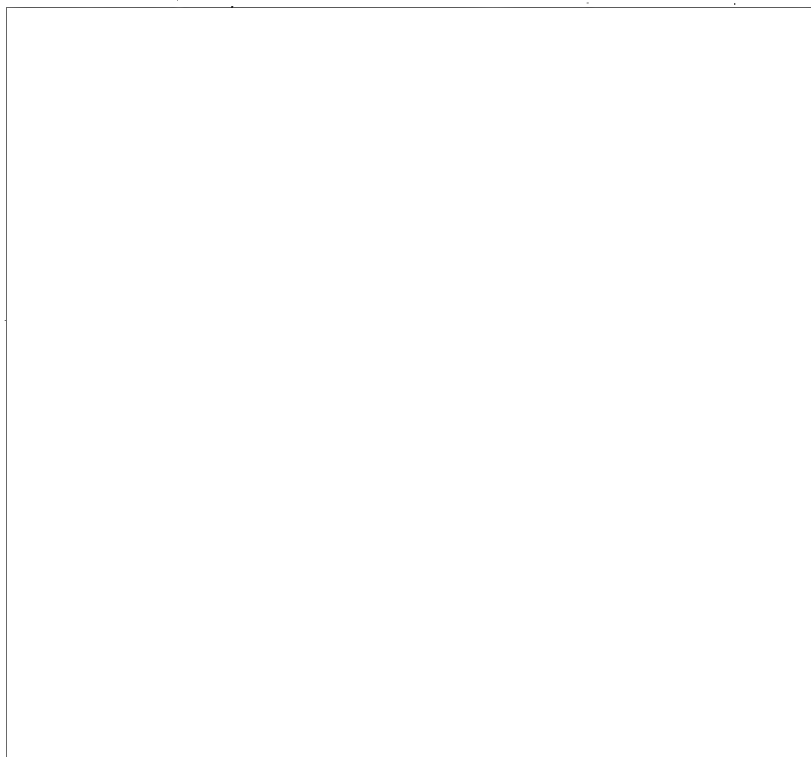
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b. Sukarno is now moving to set up his embassy in Havana (Castro already has a man in Djakarta). To do the job he is going to send Air Marshal Suryadarma (former Air Force Chief, now shunted to an adviser's desk in the Defense Ministry) and his wife. Sukarno may be sending Suryadarma on the junket (six months) as a way of rewarding an old friend, but Mrs. Suryadarma is knee-deep in Indonesian Communist Front activities.

c. Indonesia's oil adviser says he thinks the Indonesians will compromise with the western oil companies if they agree to the "basic principles" that Indonesia take over oil distribution facilities in five years and refineries within fifteen years.

4. Burma

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[redacted] on Thursday a long-pending agreement was signed under which the USSR is to sell Burma 1,000 tractors and help build factories for agricultural tools and machinery.

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5. Cuba--
Shipping

a. Pravda today carries a moving dispatch from Havana on the departure from Cuba of Soviet soldiers who have accomplished their task of helping the "Cuban comrades fully

(Cont'd)

master the powerful, modern Soviet techniques." Pravda says four ships have left with troops and that a fifth (the Nakhimov) has arrived in Havana.

b. Pravda makes no mention of the Maria Ulyanova which docked Monday night. Meanwhile, we have had no reports on the loading of either ship.

c. Havana, seeking to bolster its own merchant fleet, has asked the Soviet shipping representative in London for information on prices of "five steamships, destined for scrapping." Havana described them as of 4,600 tons each, built about 1947. [REDACTED]

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d. Cuba has acquired only a few cargo vessels from the Bloc-- one from East Germany, two from Poland.

6. Cuba [REDACTED]

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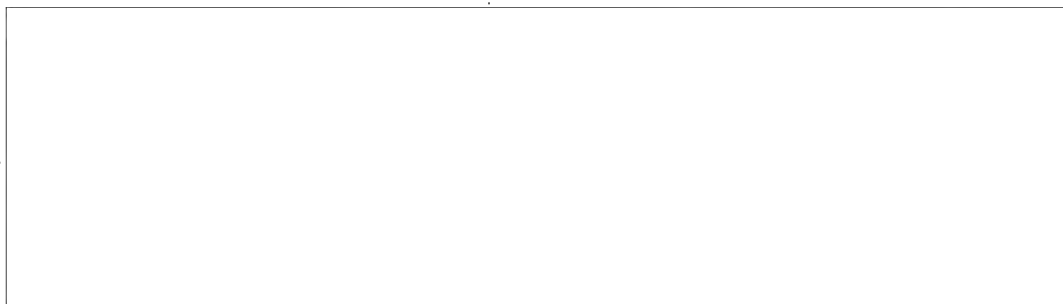
NOTES

- A. Communist China A sharp jump over the last two weeks in activity on the radio nets serving China's missile test range, combined with increased transport flights there for several months, leads us to believe the range may be coming back to life. We cannot prove any operational activity there since last March.
- B. India Food grain production this year is expected to fall about 10% below the level planned, and it seems unlikely that recent new measures to increase production will succeed to the extent that the Third Five Year Plan objectives--self-sufficiency--will be met by 1966. Among the causes: inadequate rainfall holding down rice production, and sluggish implementation of development programs. India will look to foreign aid to prevent serious food shortages.
- C. Laos Some sort of a showdown may be shaping up between pro and anti-Pathet Lao elements of Kong Le's units.
- D. Afghanistan-Pakistan A member of a "politically prominent Afghan family" has told our embassy in Kabul that resolution of the impasse with Pakistan is a prime goal of the new Afghan government; although some continuation of the Pushtunistan campaign is necessary for internal political reasons, he thinks the government would be willing to tell the Pakistanis it would abandon efforts to subvert the tribes beyond the Durand line. Ayub, meanwhile, has told Ambassador McConaughy he "would do nothing to rock the boat" and would not discourage any Afghan feelers.

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